

CLAIMS

1. An information appliance system comprising:
an information appliance device having a user interface device, wherein the user
5 interface device comprises a plurality of user interface device resources;
an entity, wherein the entity is disposed to utilize the plurality of user interface
device resources;
a focus manager, wherein the focus manager comprises a queue; and
an asynchronous request having a corresponding asynchronous entity, wherein the
10 asynchronous request is received by the focus manager, wherein the asynchronous request is
stored in the queue and assigned a priority level, wherein based on the priority level the
asynchronous entity takes control of the plurality of user interface device resources from the
entity, wherein the asynchronous entity utilizes the plurality of user interface device
resources, and wherein the asynchronous entity returns control of the plurality of user
15 interface device resources to the entity.

2. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the priority level is
comprised of an importance factor and an urgency factor, wherein the importance factor is
stored on the information appliance system, and wherein the urgency factor is supplied by
20 the asynchronous entity.

3. The information appliance system of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of
asynchronous entity attributes, wherein the plurality of asynchronous entity attributes are
stored in the information appliance system, and wherein the plurality of asynchronous entity
25 attributes comprise the importance factor.

4. The information appliance system of claim 2, wherein the importance factor and
the urgency factor are combined to create the priority level.

30 5. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous entity
returns control of the plurality of user interface device resources to the entity upon
acknowledgment of the asynchronous entity.

6. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous entity takes control of the plurality of user interface device resources immediately.

7. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous request is received by the focus manager at a receipt time, wherein the asynchronous entity takes control of the plurality of user interface device resources from the entity at an implementation time, wherein the implementation time is after the receipt time, and wherein a difference between the implementation time and the receipt time is controlled by the priority level.

8. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous entity takes control of a first set of the plurality of user interface device resources from the entity, and wherein the asynchronous entity utilizes the first set of the plurality of user interface device resources.

9. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous entity is comprised of an application.

10. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous entity is comprised of a service.

11. The information appliance system of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous entity is comprised of a subsystem.

12. A method of managing an asynchronous entity in an information appliance system comprising:

providing an information appliance device having a user interface device, wherein the user interface device comprises a plurality of user interface device resources;

5 providing an entity, wherein the entity is disposed to utilize the plurality of user interface device resources;

providing a focus manager, wherein the focus manager comprises a queue;

providing an asynchronous request having a corresponding asynchronous entity, wherein the asynchronous request is received by the focus manager;

10 assigning a priority level to the asynchronous request;

storing the asynchronous request in the queue;

having asynchronous entity take control of the plurality of user interface device resources from the entity based on the priority level;

utilizing the plurality of user interface device resources; and

15 returning control of the plurality of user interface device resources to the entity.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein assigning a priority level comprises assigning an importance factor and an urgency factor, wherein the importance factor is stored on the information appliance system, and wherein the urgency factor is supplied by the asynchronous request.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a plurality of asynchronous entity attributes, wherein the plurality of asynchronous entity attributes are stored in the information appliance system, and wherein the plurality of asynchronous entity attributes comprise the importance factor.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising combining the importance factor and the urgency factor to create the priority level.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein returning control of the plurality of user interface device resources comprises returning control of the plurality of user interface device resources to the entity upon acknowledgment of the asynchronous entity.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein taking control of the plurality of user interface device resources comprises taking control of the plurality of user interface device resources immediately.

- 5 18. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a receipt time, wherein the asynchronous request is received by the focus manager at the receipt time, providing an implementation time, wherein the asynchronous entity takes control of the plurality of user interface device resources at the implementation time, wherein the implementation time is after the receipt time, and wherein a difference between the implementation time and the
10 receipt time is controlled by the priority level.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising taking control of a first set of the plurality of user interface device portions, and wherein the asynchronous entity utilizes the first set of the plurality of user interface device portions.